(c) what effective steps have been taken and are being taken to effectively curb this illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government have been receiving complaints about video piracy from time to time.

(b) The responsibility for enforcing the penal provisions of the Copyright Act, 1952 rests with the police authorities under the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Therefore, the Central Government authorities did not smash any gangs of video pirates. According to information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau, cases of infringement of copyright in respect of cinematograph films including video films, reported from different States and Union Territories in 1993 and 1994 were 334 and 238 repectively and the number of persons arrested in this connection was 1224 and 1401 respectively in those years.

(c) It is for the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to takt appropriate steps to curb offences relating to copyright. The Department of Education who are administering the Copyright Act have taken the following measures in this regard:—

(i) The Copyright Act, 1957 has been amended to bring it in consonance with the developments in the modern technology and making the penal provisions more stringent.

(ii) A copyright enforcement council has ben set up.

(iii) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised to—

(a) set up special cells to deal with cases of copyright enforcement;

(b) organise training seminars for for police officers involved in enforcement of copyright;

(c) request Police Training Academies to include copyright in their curriculum; and

(d) bring out a manual of copyright enforcement for the police officers.

Besides, an organisation called Indian Federation Against Copyright Theft (INFACT) has been established in 1988. Promoted by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) with participation from the Film Federation of India (FFI) and other trade bodies, INFAC Tcarrjes out raids to check the menace of piracy with the help of police from timt to time all over India. During 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto February 1995), 85 and 62 such raids respectively were carried out.

voice of America

3424. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minster of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the voice of America is going to set up a relay station in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether Government have examined the intention for setting up such a realy station near our country; and

(c) if so, whether this will endanger the interests of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware that several international broadcasting organisations are setting up transmitters in various countries to target their broadcasts to different regions of the world. Appropriate action will be taken if any activity detrimental to the interest of India is noticed.